

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this morning.

My name is Diana Goodrow I am a proud recent member of the Ventura County Commission for Women representing District 1 and grateful to Supervisors Susan Lacey and Steve Bennett for my appointment. I retired on June 30, 2013 after serving 17 years and I want to thank you all publicly for the beautiful proclamation you awarded me on August 6, 2013. Unfortunately I was unable to attend that day.

I was surprised and dismayed by your August 6, 2013 vote to dissolve the Ventura County Commission for Women. For 32 years this non-funded commission has served the county by raising both government and public awareness of the challenges women in our county face.

I was shocked the decision to disband the Commission was made only months after the VCCW with the help of students from CSU Channel Islands (and made possible by a grant from Ventura County Community Foundation including the Women's Legacy Fund and the William A. and Cynthia D. Fairburn Jr. Memorial Funds and the Commission for Women Fund, and prepared in consultation K & M Enterprises,) completed a landmark Study on the Status of Women and Girls in Ventura County. This study was the first of its kind and the product of many years of planning, fundraising, and research. It examined critical issues affecting the health and well being of women and girls throughout our county including

- Domestic violence
- Homelessness
- Obesity
- Young women's higher school dropout rate than young men's
- And the fact that women are significantly underrepresented at all levels of government

On May 11, 2013 an editorial in the Ventura County Star noted that (and I quote) "the report shows the need for Public and Private agencies of every kind to step up and provide greater awareness and better answers to the real life needs reported in the Study." Clearly the VCCW's work had entered a new, more significant phase and obviously a discussion of its future demanded a public hearing.

As you know, the Commission for Women repeatedly requested the Board of Supervisors to follow through on its March 6, 2012 directive to the CEO to conduct a fiscal and administrative review and produce a report to be reviewed during a Study Session to discuss the Commission's future. Linda Catherine Le was appointed to prepare that report. I assumed, without knowing, that the report would inform the Board of Supervisors' decision about the Women's Commission. The Commissioners never saw Mrs. Le's report nor were we informed of your intent to dissolve the VCCW and replace it.

Although I believe in the good intentions of the Board of Supervisors, the effectiveness of the Commission for Women has been consistently hampered by a number of factors. Among them are:

- The lack of adequate County funding for its work
- The lack of a County Liaison assigned to the Commission with clear Policies and Procedures
- The fact that VCCW's agenda items have been repeatedly placed on hold
- And finally, the Board of Supervisor's lack of responsiveness to the Commission

While the Women's Economic Roundtable (WER) you have created to replace the VCCW has a somewhat different mission in its focus on helping women to attain good careers, it is not unlike the Commission for Women in its bylaws and lack of funding. I appreciate that two Supervisors promise to support the WER, however I am concerned this new group will face the same frustrations as the Commission for Women did. I urge you to be much clearer in your expectations of this new organization and to look seriously at the VCCW Two-Year Report (2011-2013) and the Policies and Procedures drafted in preparation for the Study Session that was never held.

I believe the 32-year history of the Commission should have earned the Board of Supervisors' respect and support. The Study on the Status of Women and Girls clearly indicated the need for the Commission to further address women's economic and political equality, their health and safety issues, to be the voices for women in government.

In your stated intent to streamline government you have dissolved the Commission. Commissions on the Status of Women and Girls at the local, state, national and international level continue to keep women moving forward. Commissions have existed and continue to exist to voice the issues and to strengthen gender equity for all.

Changing the name to Women's Economic Roundtable does not change this. I wish this newly renamed Commission great success as it addresses the findings and recommendations raised in the study the present Commission brought to your attention.

I wish you had renamed it 'Ventura County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.'

My trust in government has been greatly challenged by your decision and I personally feel disrespected and betrayed by the way it was done.

Diana Goodrow

Retired on June 30, 2013 Ventura County Commission for Women

Ventura County Regional Coordinator for the Women's Intercultural Network/California Women's Agenda



The Association of California Commissions for Women

Draft Minutes for ACCW Annual Meeting
Hosted by Santa Barbara County Commission
June 1, 2013 - 10:00am–3:00pm

9:00 – 10:00am – Continental Breakfast/Meet and Greet

10:00

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Attendees and Delegates

a. Meeting called at 10:10

b. Suzanne Doty	Santa Clara County, delegate
Araceli Campos	City of Los Angeles, delegate
Paulla Ufferheide	San Luis Obispo County
Rebecca Blanton	Cal Com on the Status of Women and Girls, delegate
Diana Goodrow	Ventura County, delegate
Lee Riggan	Ventura County
Sherry Cash	Ventura County
Ina Howard	Ventura County
Deborah Bagley	Ventura County
Jan Harper	San Luis Obispo County, delegate
Kitty Dill	Ventura County
Deborah Dawicki	Santa Barbara County
Gayle Pratt	Santa Barbara County
Tracy Beard	Santa Barbara County
Suzie Ditmars	San Diego County, delegate
Martha Hight	Santa Barbara County
Phyllis Gordon	Contra Costa County, delegate
Paula Devine	City of Glendale, delegate
Gail Teton-Landis	Santa Barbara County, delegate
Gwendolyn Hampton	Santa Barbara County

Guest Olivia Cruz, Vandenberg Air Force Base

Guest Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th District State Senator

c. Suzanne acknowledges the many years of service of Diana Goodrow who is stepping down from the Ventura County Commission as of 6/30/13.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: Paulla /Jan- M/S/A

3. Approval of Minutes of last quarterly meeting

Motion to approve minutes: Diana/Jan - M/S/A

4. President's Report

a. Financial Report

- i. ACCW no longer has a treasurer; Lainie Miller resigned effective immediately.
 - ii. Budget indicates a double payment from Bonnie Wheatley, must clarify
 - iii. Change report to indicate County, not City of San Diego
 - iv. Santa Barbara double dues; need to clarify.
 - v. Current balance is \$14,476.02 without above referenced corrections
 - b. Membership Report
 - i. 18 members; San Diego County is newest member and payment from San Joaquin County should be counted for 2013/2014 dues; double payment from Alameda County (from Bonnie Wheatley and the county) will count for 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 dues.
 - ii. Dues and voting eligibility
 - iii. Associate membership for individuals available for both ACCW and NACW; \$25.00 for ACCW. Suzanne will add category to membership application.
 - iv. By-laws were amended last year to include Associate Member but without a definite amount. Kitty and Jan will clarify language if needed.
 - v. Need to elect Southern California Commissioner. Suzanne defines that the SCC sits on the E-Committee and stays in touch with commissions in your area. Santa Barbara south/ SLO north
 - vi. ACCW communicates through email blasts and the web site which is in need of updating.
 - vii. Suzanne explains that ACCW has 2 meetings/year in person and two conference call meetings in fall and spring. Executive Committee usually meets one to two weeks before quarterly meetings and usually last 1 hour.
 - viii. Kitty suggests change subject line to indicate what part of subject responding to, but usually ACCW emails do not discuss items—they are more announcement and event oriented.
 - ix. Executive Committee Vacancies: Treasures and Southern Cal Rep
 - c. Communications/ Web Site
 - i. Sean from Contra Costa County is the Webmaster. Suzanne suggests that commissioners go to website and update and connect your commission to ACCW.
 - ii. ACCW also has FB. Twitter to come.
 - d. Incorporation / Fiscal Sponsor
 - i. No report. Cecelia working on this.
 - ii. ACCW is not a 501C3. Looking for Friends of... to umbrella us.
5. NACW National Conference Update
- a. Program/Speaker/Tour Update
 - i. July 25-27 at San Jose Marriot. Everyone should have received the registration packet. Early bird registration was extended one week. Email Mary Molina Mescall if you need more time. Hotel is \$121/night, single or double plus taxes etc. Cut off for hotel conference rates is July 8. Extended 3 days before and 3 days after. Conference registration is \$370 but if you volunteer, you do not pay registration that day, but you do pay for your meals. You can volunteer at registration or as workshop facilitators. Facilitators will introduce and be available to help speaker/panelists. Suzanne will email out a volunteer Registration Form next week that will need to be submitted with the NACW registration form.
 - ii. Key note speakers secured and workshops have been reduced to only 3 on Saturday afternoon. Another workshop has been added to Friday morning because Morgan Stanley gave us \$5,000. ACCW Business meeting every morning.

Thursday AM= Equal Pay Symposium. Lunch Speaker, Kamala Lopez, ERA Education Project. Thurs. afternoon: WAGE Project: How to negotiate salary, Annie Houle. Women Veterans Workshop with Lindsey Sin. Using Social Media for Social Advocacy: Hands on workshop

- iii. Friday Morning: Commission Exchange. Living the Savvy Life: Practical money management followed by two women financial advisors from Morgan Stanley. Friday afternoons tours: Winery and shopping or Carmel and Monterey tours.
- iv. Saturday Morning: Documentary on the Invisible War with luncheon keynote speaker Kate Weber, a disabled army veteran who is in the movie.
- v. Gloria Feldt, Thursday night keynote speaker
- vi. Saturday: Workplace Policy, Domestic Violence, Impact of women in leadership roles. Keynote is Marina Park, President of Northern California Girl Scouts.
- vii. Only 2 tours will be offered: Wine tasting and shopping for one tour, and Carmel/Monterey for the other. Other local events that day that people might want to do on their own: SF Giants play Chicago Cubs Friday night. Golf opportunities. Gilroy Garlic Festival. San Jose Museum of Art. Tech Museum in San Jose.

b. Scholarships

- i. Paulla says that since we want California commissions to be well represented, the Executive Committee voted to offer \$200 scholarships to any commission that requests it to use as they wish.
- ii. Tell Suzanne if you want to take advantage of the scholarship and once she gets confirmation of conference registration, she will cut the commission a check.

c. Volunteer Opportunities

- i. Already discussed. Suzanne working on a form for volunteer registration. Early-Bird NACW Registration extended until June 10.
- ii. Araceli suggests NACW program, registration, volunteer form and scholarship information should all go out at once to all commissions.

d. Fundraiser

- i. Paulla reports that ACCW will be selling Women Pins. All shapes and sizes. Breast Cancer, Ovarian Cancer and inspiring pins. Paulla will send out form to request when people can staff the booth. This does not count as an NACW volunteer opportunity. Sales days will be all day Thursday and Saturday with Friday stopping at lunch.
- ii. Phyllis states that there is a vendor application if anyone wants to sell something. Commissions \$100 or 150.00 for booth-needs to be clarified. Paulla might sell Chico bags and collapsible water bottles.
- iii. Phyllis and Suzanne's commissions are sponsoring a VIP Reception. Looking for money to sponsor a break. There is a request to resend Sponsorship package to commissions.
- iv. Rebecca asks if Nora Compos has she been contacted. Suzanne will do so.

e. Goodie Bags

- i. SLO commission is leading on this. Jan Harper reports that they want to use Chico Bags that fold-up, but they cost money. Will decide if they will be labeled with California Women Commissions. 200 items needed from each commission. If there are extra bags they will be sold at the ACCW booth. Jan may write thank you letters to companies who donate to the bags. Deadline to get items to Jan Harper is July 15.

- f. Conference Branded Bags
 - i. Other Bags for ACCW material can also hold a laptop. Ultimate Tote will cost \$725-925 total - \$2.90-\$3.70/bag. Paula Devine will propose to Glendale Commission to sponsor this item
 - ii. Motion: ACCW support the convention bag as Plan B up to \$1000.
Jan/Paulla -M/S/A
- 6. Report by Santa Barbara County Commission on Stand Down event with veteran's
 - a. Commissioner Gayle Pratt introduces Stand Down and her co-presenters, Commissioner Deborah Dawicki, Commissioner and Master Sargent Olivia Cruz from Vandenberg Air Force Base.
 - b. See attached report for details of presentation.
- 7. Report on California State Commission on Women and Girls
 - a. Rebecca reports Commission is back.
 - b. See attached report for details of presentation.

12:00pm – 1:00pm - Lunch

- 8. Guest speaker Hannah-Beth Jackson, State Senator for 19th District, covering Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Women's Legislative Caucus.
 - a. Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson encourages ACCW to keep into touch with legislators and in particular Women's Legislative Caucus.
 - b. Areas of particular interest:
 - i. Equal pay and comparable pay issues
 - ii. Women in prison
 - iii. Military issues: sexual assault in the military, and finding women veterans
 - iv. Feminization of poverty
 - v. How to get more women elected to office.
 - vi. Gender based responsibility:
 - 1. Be assertive, not ask permission—just do it.
 - 2. Be positive by passing good legislation
 - vii. How to reach out to younger women: they do things differently and reconnect to younger generation
 - viii. Do a better job of accommodating women in the workforce-- necessity of pre-schools and flex-time for working mothers.
 - ix. Issues surrounding "Women's Recession" because government jobs and health care jobs most affected.
 - x. Education as key: Birth rate is dropping as women get education
 - 1. Youth and Bullying: part of education to develop methods of dispute resolution
 - 2. Violence against women and girls including girl on girl and dating violence. Classes in safety—safe dating, etc.
 - c. Movie *The Rose* - "don't be a waitress at the banquet of life, be part of the banquet"
 - d. In Q and A responds to question concerning so many regulations on corporations driving hundreds out of California:
 - i. H-B J says that is a myth. California and through universities are good at incubating new companies. Tech jobs want well trained workers which we are producing

- ii. We may lose some manufacturing jobs as these small companies grow, but there must be a balance and corporations need environmental regulations and workers have rights.
- 9. Report By Ventura County CSW on process for their Survey on Status of Women and Girls
 - a. The process presented by Diana Goodrow, Kitty and Lee.
 - b. See attached report for details of presentation.
- 10. Report by San Luis Obispo County Commission on their community survey
 - a. Paulla reports that an expert helped put together their survey. They take it to farmer's market and to service clubs. SLO is looking at trends because they have used the same survey over the years.
 - b. Reported to BOS areas of concerns. Men like data vs. points of view. Data is reported by zip code.
 - c. See attached report for details of presentation.
- 11. Election of Officers
 - a. Suzie Ditmars has volunteered to be southern California Rep. Appointed by Suzanne.
 - b. Tracy Beard has volunteered to be Treasurer. Job includes creating financial statements, write checks, keep track of membership, procure resale license and figure out sales tax. Appointed by Suzanne.
- 12. Discussion of how to engage Southern CA commissions and participation by Mt. St. Mary's College
 - a. Araceli notes that there has not been a lot of participation by Southern California Commissions. Why do the Northern CA commissions seem to work more collaboratively? Some suggested response: Sharing of ideas. Need to address benefits of being ACCW. Building relationships. Haven't been having meetings in Southern California. Gwendolyn suggests a letter and a phone call. Tracy volunteers to call all the Southern California Commissions. Reports to minutes and send to everyone here or not here. . Jan says we need face time. Z says Scholarship is good.
 - b. Mount St. Mary's. Want MSM to host the January meeting. Want to grow relationship with ACCW. 3rd weekend in January, around Martin Luther King Day.
 - c. Paulla suggests we send scholarship information and membership information out to non-members.
 - d. Google.doc: fill out membership form completely to update list.
 - e. Add Women's Foundation potential source of money –Judy Patrick.
- 13. Adjournment
 - a. Next Quarterly Meeting: September 25, conference call
 - b. Adjourned at 2:40 pm.